of transport within the State. This will explain why a provision of Rs. 73·43 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget as against only Rs. 43·86 lakhs in the revised estimates for the current year.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

10. I shall now attempt to give the House an idea of our post-war reconstruction scheme, without which no account of the next year's programme of expenditure can ever be regarded as complete. The programme of post-war re-construction so ably drawn up by you, Sir, is characteristically comprehensive. Aimed at developing all the natural resources of the State and their latent potentialities, the Scheme overlooks very few possibilities. In addition to what may be called the basic schemes for the expansion of education and of the State's Hydro-Electric resources, the programme includes, within its scope, a project for the manufacture of fertilisers and heavy chemicals, schemes for the promotion and enlargement of industries like Aluminium and Rubber products, not to speak of our cottage industries, the exploitation of the valuable mineral sands of the State and of the soft and hard wood resources of our forests for the production of plywood and ultimately rayon and artificial silk, the co-ordination of transport and the inauguration of machine tool industries for the manufacture of spare parts for the State Transport motor vehicles Ambitious though these schemes may appear to a pessimist, they are well within the realm of practical achievement; for the country has abundance of natural resources to be exploited on, a large capital reserve for financing such schemes and last, but not least, an organising genius in you, Sir, able and willing to plan and execute any scheme of development. The scheme is proposed to be worked out in co-ordination with the Government of India who have already circularised this Government as to our post-war reconstruction programme. Government have already appointed four Sub-Committees within the Post-war Reconstruction Committee for reporting on the preliminaries to be fixed up for implementing the provisions of the scheme.

The various works which form the component parts of the whole scheme may be grouped under four broad, basic sub-divisions. These groups are works for the development of Hydro-Electric power, programme in furtherance of post-war industrial development, development of agriculture and fisheries including deep sea fishing and increased production of food stuffs as also the co-ordination of transport facilities. The works are proposed to be carried out through the agency of the Public Works, Industries, Agriculture, Electricity, Fisheries and Forest Departments. The Public Works Department will be in charge of the works in connection with irrigation, road construction, canal improvement, backwaters reclamation, coastal navigation and improvement of Ports, Aerodrome and Town planning scheme. The Electricity Department will, for the present, attend to the development of our Hydro-Electric resources by completing the

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works already taken up and also taking up such new works as could be possibly executed at present with the machinery and equipments available under the present conditions. To the share of the Forest and Industries Departments fall the works connected with the Fertilisers and Chemicals, the Rubber Factory, the Glass Works, the Ceramic and the Cement factories. The Agricultural Department will take up the investigation and demonstrations relating to the cultivation of dry crops and of sericulture. The Forest Department will also give its special attention to the organisation and execution of a well-planned scheme for the regeneration of fuel to meet the growing demands of the country and for the production of charcoal on a large scale for the use of our industrial concerns in substitution of the more costly and less available coal and petrol.

The post-war reconstruction scheme I have been describing to the House is estimated to involve an out lay of about Rs 5 crores, out of which a sum of Rs 1·35 crores is provided in the budget for the next year on a three year basis and what is proposed to be done immediately is mostly in the shape of preliminary investigations, survey etc., required for putting the scheme into actual execution, as soon as possible after the war or even earlier, if the necessary plant and machinery, etc., would become available. The House will, no doubt, be interested to be told that, with a view to implementing the post-war reconstruction programme of the Government and to initiate and supervise the cottage and small industries scheme as a counter-part of the bigger scheme of post-war reconstruction, arrangements are in progress for the selection and appointment of an officer with wide practical experience of the working of industrial establishments and of cottage industries.

11. I shall now refer to some of the activities of Government included in the programme of expenditure for the next year, which though apparently not in the nature of post-war reconstruction schemes, falling as they do within the ordinary sphere of the normal functions of Government, have really a great bearing on the advancement and regeneration of the country, which is the paramount aim of a post-war reconstruction scheme.

12. *Education.*—The real appreciation of any scheme and the successful execution thereof depend to a considerable extent on a literate mass. Though ours is a State that may legitimately be proud of being in the front ranks in point of higher education, much has yet to be done in the education of the mass in respect of primary education. It is proposed to make primary education, which, though free, is not obligatory now, compulsory on all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 11 by promulgating the necessary legislative enactments. A provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for starting the scheme of compulsory primary education within the Corporation limits of Trivandrum, for the necessary

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expenditure on buildings, equipment, salaries and also free feeding, clothing and supply of books for about half the number of the pupils. The extension of compulsory education throughout the whole State will be taken up in instalments in the light of the experience of the working of the scheme at Trivandrum.

Talking on education, I feel that I must say something about the new phases of the activities of the Travancore University. Two sides of recent activities call for special mention. One is the introduction of a course of study in Military science in the University for the cadets of the Travancore University Officers' Training and Labour Corps and the other is the visual education scheme. The military training course is for a period of three years and the standard of instruction proposed to be given is the same as that of the corresponding course of the Government of India. The candidates coming out successful after the course will be considered for higher appointments in the State Forces and analgous services. The visual education scheme started under the auspices of the University aims at exhibiting educational films at a public theatre by the students of the local Colleges and English High Schools. The Government grant to the University for the next year is proposed to be fixed at Rs. 11·5 lakhs against Rs. 9·4 lakhs in the current year.

13. *Medical.*—The proposal to concentrate attention on the development and the conversion of the existing medical institutions into four or five first class well equipped hospitals in selected centres leaving the others as dispensaries has, for some time, been engaging the attention of Government. The idea is that instead of having to maintain a large number of hospitals in various centres, it would be better to have a smaller number of hospitals in a few selected centres equipped and conducted on up-to-date lines with all the facilities and appliances required to render those institutions, a centre of expert medical advice. The Government dispensaries and the existing minor hospitals within easy reach of one of the central institutions will act as feeders to the central institution. It is proposed for the present to have four central institutions, one at Trivandrum and the others at Quilon, Alleppy and Kottayam. The scheme is to be started in the General Hospital, Trivandrum and a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the budget, Rs. 3 lakhs in the Public Works budget for buildings and Rs. 2 lakhs in the Medical budget for equipment. The plans for the construction of the buildings have already been drawn up and sent to Bombay for scrutiny and criticism by leading medical men and engineers of the place. Government will be able to work out the scheme in full within a period of three years, spending on an average about Rs. 5 lakhs a year.

14. *Uplift of Backward Communities*—Our programme of work of uplift of backward communities continues unabated and besides for the continuance of the normal activities of the department on a progressive scale, special provision has been made in the budget for the next year for various ameliorative measures, such as the provision of house sites

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wells, common buildings and educational concessions and also for the demonstration of animal husbandry, poultry farming on a scientific basis, weaving, paper making and other cottage industries at the rural development centre at Sachivottamapuram.

15. *Food problem.*—I shall now proceed to explain to the House our debt position and our assets and liabilities. But before doing so, I must make a reference to the most trying problem of the day, the problem that taxes the Government as a Body Corporate as well as the individual, I mean the food problem. In view of the inadequacy of the local production of food grains to meet our minimum requirements and the present difficulties in obtaining and transporting from outside areas, the food grains required for supplementing our needs, the situation is being met by a rigid system of rationing and by the purchase by Government at controlled prices of the excess food grains available with the public for redistribution to the public who are short of their requirements. Though it may be that under the rationing system, every man may not receive his full quota, Government have the satisfaction that every one will get his due share instead of some getting more than what is required and, others, nothing at all.

To meet the situation arising out of the scarcity of foodstuffs in the State, Government have till now advanced Rs. 13·14 crores for the purchase of food stuffs. Sales have been effected and remittances made against this advance to the extent of Rs. 7·87 crores and the balance stands invested in food stuffs. The commodities purchased include, besides the principal foodgrains imported from outside and local paddy, pulses of various kinds which are not easily procurable by private merchants, and for which the States have been allowed quotas. Government have at present in stock non-rationed commodities costing about Rs. 92 lakhs. 98 lakhs of paras of local paddy costing Rs. 146·55 lakhs were purchased during the year and 61 lakhs of paras were rationed to the public.

The Government of India preliminary Karif Plan for rice, millets and maize and the Basic Plan for pulses run up to October 1944 and the preliminary Rabi Plan for wheat runs up to April 1945, after which fresh plans will commence working. To purchase the balance of food stuffs covered by the current plans during the next year and the quantities that may be allowed against fresh plans which may come into force after the aforesaid dates, and for the acquisition of local paddy, we may have to advance about Rs. 9 crores. Sales during the next year are also expected to amount to Rs. 9 crores. The net investment of about Rs. 526·64 lakhs may therefore continue at the end of 1120 also and will represent the value of the stock which we have to keep in reserve to enable us to make our periodical releases to the public.

Government have also provided a sum of Rs. 11 lakhs for expenditure next year in connection with the procurement, transport, storage, control and distribution of food-stuffs including construction of godowns.

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